IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Willi Brüchle et al.

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants are submitting the present preliminary amendment before the first examination and action in the above-noted application.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper. Amendments to the claims begin on page 3 of this paper. Amendments to the abstract begin on page 12 of this paper. Remarks begin on page 13 of this paper.